

Suger Creek Bridge
Hopkinsville Vicinity
Christian County
Kentucky

HAER No. KY-7

HAER
KY
24-HOPVI.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20013-7127

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Suger Creek Bridge

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Location: Spanning Suger Creek near Hopkinsville on Kentucky
Route 124 in northwestern Christian County, Kentucky

UTM: 16.439600.4084490
Quad: Gracey

Date of Construction: 1894

Present Owner: Kentucky Transportation Center
State Office Building
Frankfort, Kentucky 40622

Present Use: Vehicular bridge on Kentucky Route 124

Significance: Oldest dated bedpost pony truss in Kentucky. The only
example in the State built by the Groton Bridge
Company of New York.

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The Kentucky Route 124 Bridge over Suger Creek in Christian County was determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places on September 30, 1982. It is the oldest bedpost or truss-leg bedstead bridge in Kentucky and is dated 1894. It is also the only bridge in the State built by the Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company of Groton, New York.

This one-lane metal truss bridge is located in a serene rural setting amid rolling agricultural terrain. It is located on narrow Kentucky Route 124 on a long straight stretch and has a 6-ton posted load limit. Due to its 1890s construction date, it may have been constructed of either wrought iron or steel.

This three-panel, pin-connected bridge is 44 feet in length and 9.7 feet in width. The vertical end posts are two channels with two sets of lacing bars and extend below the deck to support the bridge. On the end panel, the bottom chords are small I-beams set at an angle for greater strength. In the center, the bottom chords are two square eyebars. Top chords are two channels, cover plate, and stay bars. Intermediate posts are two angles and lattice bars. Outriggers at the intermediate posts also give added strength. Diagonals are square or round eyebars. The floor system consists of rolled I-beam floor beams and stringers with a wood deck.

The "Survey of Truss, Suspension, and Arch Bridges in Kentucky," completed in January 1981, located 20 bedpost pony trusses in the State. Most of these trusses are located in the western and central portions of the State. These trusses are usually less than 75 feet in length and were built between 1890 and 1920. The Suger Creek Bridge is the only pin-connected example in Kentucky.

Although in poor physical condition, the Suger Creek Bridge retains its structural integrity. This National Register structure is considered a good representative example of late 19th century bridge technology.